

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 COA-02 DLOS-06

IO-14 CU-04 /151 W

----- 010776

R 180740Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6079

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR JA MY

SUBJ: TANAKA VISIT TO MALAYSIA: JAPANESE EMBASSY VIEWS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 0208

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE DCM CONFIRMED TO ME

JAN 17 THAT, FROM GOJ STANDPOINT, PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S VISIT TO KUALA LUMPUR WAS GENERALLY AS AGREEABLE AS THEY HAD ANTICIPATED. THE UNHURRIED AND FRIENDLY MOOD, LARGELY SET BY PRIMIN RAZAK HIMSELF, REPORTEDLY MADE THIS STOP
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THE BEST OF THE FIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRSTLY RAZAK SURPRISED TANAKA BY HIS ABILITY TO CONVERSE IN JAPANESE, A FACULTY RETAINED FROM WWII WHEN HE WAS REPORTEDLY ACTIVE IN ANTI-JAPANESE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT. RAZAK NOT ONLY OPENED HIS OFFICIAL GREETING IN JAPANESE, BUT EVEN USED IT DURING PART OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS ON GOLF COURSE AND WHILE TAKING TANAKA ON TOUR OF HIS (RAZAK'S) HOME.

3. SECONDLY, NOMIYAMA SAID RAZAK HIMSELF LED PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS (AT AFTER-GOLF LUNCHEON SUNDAY) DISPLAYING IMPRESSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF ECONOMIC ISSUES WITHOUT DEPENDENCY ON FEW OTHER CABINET COLLEAGUES ALSO PRESENT (DEP PRIMIN HUSSEIN ONN AND GHAZALI SHAFIE). THROUGHOUT RAZAK REPORTEDLY WAS CASUAL, NON-CONTENTIOUS, AND EXPRESSED FULLEST HOSPITALITY TO GROWING JAPANESE ECONOMIC PRESENCE IN MALAYSIA. HE REPORTEDLY ONLY SET DOWN CAVEAT THAT JAPANESE SHOULD NOT OPERATE "LIKE ALIENS" AND THAT THEY SHOULD MIX WELL IN MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY.

4. JAPANESE WERE SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, THAT RAZAK DID NOT IN FACT ASK FOR JAPANESE VIEWS ON ASIA-WIDE AND REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES, E.G. RAZAK DID NOT ASK FOR OR INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON CHINA, ASEAN OR MIDDLE EAST. WHEN I ASKED WHY TANAKA HAD NOT TAKEN INITIATIVE TO RAISE THESE SUBJECTS IF HE WISHED TO DISCUSS THEM, NOMIYAMA REPLIED "WE WERE THEIR GUESTS." JAPANESE WERE PLEASED THAT MALACCA STRAITS DID NOT COME UP, ALTHOUGH NOMIYAMA ADMITTED THIS WAS BY PREARRANGEMENT WITH FONMIN ON UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE FAR APART ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT IT SHOULD BE LEFT FOR LOS CONFERENCE.

5. NOMIYAMA SAID CONVERSATIONS REVOLVED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY AROUND ECONOMIC ISSUES, WITH RAZAK SERVING UP A SHOPPING LIST OF PROJECTS - "MORE THAN A DOZEN" - DESERVING GOJ ASSISTANCE. THESE INCLUDED EAST COAST (KUANTAN) PORT DEVELOPMENT, A BRIDGE BETWEEN PENANG AND MAINLAND, AND NUMBER OF OTHERS WHICH NOMIYAMA SAID HAD TOO MUCH POLITICAL CONTENT FOR JAPANESE TASTE. RAZAK WAS EAGER FOR ADDITIONAL

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JAPANESE COMMITMENTS BUT TANAKA LIMITED HIMSELF TO AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITHOUT ANY SPECIFICS FOR NEW YEN CREDITS. NOMIYAMA SAID BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE DISTRESSED THAT UNFOUNDED PRESS REPORTS SPOKE OF QUOTE NEW UNQUOTE ASSISTANCE OF \$100 MILLION AS NOTED KUALA LUMPUR 208 AND THEY ARE ALL NOW SEEKING WAY TO CORRECT THESE REPORTS WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE TAKING SOMETHING BACK.

6. ACCORDING TO NOMIYAMA, TANAKA DID NOT NOTICE

THE QUOTE FIFTEEN - WE COUNTED THEM END QUOTE STUDENTS
(PRESS REPORTED 200) HOLDING ANTI-JAPANESE BANNERS WHEN
PM ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT. HE SUBSEQUENTLY REFUSED TO SEE
STUDENT DELEGATION IN HIS HOTEL BECAUSE HE WAS STILL ANNOYED
BY BANGKOK EXPERIENCE. JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE MADE NO
EFFORT TO CHANGE TANAKA'S MIND AND MOREOVER DELIVERED ORAL
PROTEST TO GOM WHEN THEY HEARD THAT THE STUDENTS,
EXACERBATED BY THEIR REJECTION, BURNED THE JAPANESE FLAG
AND A TANAKA EFFIGY ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

7. COMPARING KL STOP TO SINGAPORE, NOMIYAMA SAID
THERE WAS MAJOR SIMILARITY IN THAT TANAKA ALSO SURPRISED BY
LEE'S INDIFFERENCE TO JAPAN'S OVERALL POLITICAL VIEWS AND
BY LEE'S TOTAL PREOCCUPATION WITH BILATERAL ECONOMIC
RELATIONS. HOWEVER, TANAKA WAS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED
FOR LEE'S HEAVY INSISTENCE ON "GUARANTEES" OF
UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLIES OF RAW MATERIALS TO SINGAPORE AT A
TIME WHEN JAPAN WAS IN NO POSITION TO GIVE SUCH ASSURANCES.
RAZAK EQUALLY INTERESTED IN THIS PROBLEM BUT HIS LOW
KEYED PITCH WAS UNDERSTANDABLY MORE PALATABLE TO JAPANESE.
CHESLAW

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